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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/963,466	09/27/2001	Tsutomu Tamaki	030675-063	9568

7590 02/26/2003
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P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

LEE, BENNY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2817

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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SERIAL NUMBER	FILED	ATE	FILED	NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
7	

DATE MAILED:

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application on:

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

KS

This application has been examined Responsive to communication filed on _____ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s) from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to be abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133.

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS APPLICATION:

- Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892.
- Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-149.
- Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474

- Justice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948.
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

- Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claims _____ have been cancelled.
- Claims _____ are allowed.
- Claims _____ are rejected.
- Claims 1-17 are subject to restriction or election requirement.
- This application has been filed with informal drawings which are _____ matter is indicated. _____ for examination purposes until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated.
- Allowable subject matter having been indicated, formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
- The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. These drawings are acceptable; not acceptable (see explanation).
- The proposed drawing correction and/or the proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____ has (have) been approved by the examiner, disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
- The proposed drawing correction, filed _____ has been approved, disapproved (see explanation). However, it is now applicant's responsibility to ensure that the drawings are corrected. Corrections **MUST** be effected in accordance with the requirements set forth on the attached letter "INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES", PTO-1474.
- Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 19. The certified copy has been received not been received.
- Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed under 453 O.G. 213.
- Other _____

EXAMINER'S ACTION

SN 963 966

Art Unit: 2817

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species I: the embodiment of Figs. 3A, 3B, 20A 20B;

Species II: the embodiment of Figs. 4, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 21A, 21B, 22;

Species III: the embodiment of Fig. 7;

Species IV: the embodiment of Figs. 8A, 8B;

Species V: the embodiment of Figs. 10A, 10B, 10C, 19A-19C;

Species VI: the embodiment of Figs. 11A, 11B;

Species VII: the embodiment of Figs. 12A, 12B, 12C, 19A-19C;

Species VIII: the embodiment of Figs. 13A, 13B, 13C;

Species IX: the embodiment of Figs. 14A, 14B;

Species X: the embodiment of Figs. 16A, 16B;

Species XI: the embodiment of Figs. 18A, 18B.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, claim 1 is generic.

Art Unit: 2817

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benny Lee whose telephone number is (703) 308 4902


BENNY T. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2817